

RM-10867

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
ATTN: COMMISSIONERS

RE: MORSE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING. **RECEIVED**

APR 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

MY NAME IS EMMETT DEVORE, KB3 JWT, I WOULD LIKE ADDRESS THE MOVEMENT TO ABOLISH, OR AMEND, THE REQUIREMENT OF PASSING A MORSE CODE TEST TO UPGRADE TO A GENERAL CLASS, OR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS NOT A WAIVER TO THE MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT.

AS A DISABLED PERSON THE ABILITY, OR SHOULD I SAY, THE INABILITY TO LEARN AND USE THE MORSE CODE IS A VERY REAL PROBLEM. THE RESULTS OF A STROKE HAS SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED MY ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THE SOUNDS USED TO TRANSMIT THE CODE SIGNAL. THIS LOSS COMBINED WITH A LOSS OF SOME OF MY VISUAL USE, AND A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF MOTOR SKILLS HAS CREATED AN INABILITY TO DECEIPHER THE CODE SIGNALS BY EITHER SIGHT OR SOUND.

THESE LOSSES HAVE HINDERED MY ABILITY TO UPGRADE MY LICENSE STANDING EVEN THOUGH I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PASS THE ELEMENT 3 WRITTEN TEST (GENERAL LEVEL).

NOT BEING ABLE TO UTILIZE THE MORSE CODE CLOSES FREQUENCIES TO ME. HOWEVER, THE USE

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

OF THE BANDS AVAILABLE TO SOMEONE WITH A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE WOULD, IN MY CASE BE MEANINGFUL, EVEN IF I AM UNABLE TO UTILIZE THE MORSE CODE FREQUENCIES. THIS WOULD ALLOW ME MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH MANY OTHER AMATEUR OPERATORS THAN DOES MY CURRENT NO-CODE TECHNICIAN LICENSE.

I AM NOT ALONE IN MY INABILITY TO MASTER THE MORSE CODE. I HAVE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF TWO OTHER PERSONS THAT HAVE THE SAME INABILITY, DUE TO PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, TO LEARN AND UTILIZE THE MORSE CODE. CONSEQUENTLY I URGE YOU, THE FCC, TO CONSIDER CHANGING, OR AMENDING, THE REQUIREMENT OF PASSING A MORSE CODE TEST TO BE GRANTED A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE AND THEREBY ALLOWING THE FURTHER ENJOYMENT THE AMATEUR RADIO EXPERIENCE.

THIS REQUIREMENT, AS IS MY UNDERSTANDING, HAS BEEN ADDRESSED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND IS UNDERGOING CHANGES I.E. ABOLISHMENT OF THIS REQUIREMENT BY MANY COUNTRIES. I THEREBY REQUEST YOU, THE FCC, TO REVIEW THIS REQUIREMENT AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING THE REQUIRED CODE PORTION OF THE LICENSING PROCEDURE.

WITHOUT SOME SORT OF CHANGE IN THE REQUIREMENTS I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEVELS OF AMATEUR RADIO USE BEYOND THE TECHNICIAN CLASS WHICH ESSENTIALLY LIMITS ME TO MY HOME COUNTRY.

**TO CLOSE THIS LETTER I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST
SOMETHING THAT IS A STRONG BELIEF OF MINE I.E.
THE REQUIREMENT TO LEARN THE MORSE CODE HAS
BECOME A VERY REAL IMPEDIMENT, NOT ONLY TO
MYSELF BUT, TO OTHERS YOUNG AND OLD, NOT TO
MENTION THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, WANTING TO
JOIN THE RANKS OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS.**

**THANK YOU FOR AFFORDING ME THE OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS
REGARDING THIS SUBJECT.**

VERY TRULY YOURS,

**EMMETT L. DEVORE
KBS JWT**

**CC: M. HART
R. SANTORUM
A. SPECTER**